Rejoice. Pray. Give Thanks. Repeat.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

STUDY GUIDE

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WELCOME:
Fixing
Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:
Ask GG members to list down things they are thankful to God for. Have them compare their lists and spend time thanking God for each item. Segue into our lesson where Paul exhorted believers to be thankful always.

WORSHIP:
Adoring
Our God

Suggested song:
Rejoice

WORD & WALK:
Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM
1. GG members will rejoice and give thanks no matter their circumstances.
2. GG members will resolve to make prayer a way of life.

INTRODUCTION
As Paul concluded his first recorded letter to the Thessalonians, he gave them final instructions. Part of his instructions pertained to attitudes they were to cultivate.

Paul exhorted believers to rejoice, pray, and give thanks always (vv. 16-18)
Paul wrote that believers were to rejoice, pray, and give thanks at all times, regardless of their circumstances, for this is God's desire for them.

1. What are believers to do always according to Paul, in verse 16? (cf. Philippians 4:4) What might be some reasons for believers to do so? (cf. Romans 12:12)
2. Paul mentioned joy being part of the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. What does this tell us about the origin or source of a believer's joy?
3. What did Paul say about the frequency of prayer in a believer's life? (cf. Ephesians 6:18) How might we practice this in our everyday lives?
4. How often should believers give thanks, and under what circumstances? (cf. Acts 16:25) How can believers give thanks even when going through difficult circumstances? (cf. Romans 8:28)
5. What was the connection between Paul's exhortations and God's desire for all believers? How can believers make this true in their lives? (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:17)

APPLICATION
God desires for us to be joyful and thankful always, regardless of the circumstances surrounding us. The only way we can do this is by having constant intimate fellowship with God. This is why we should make prayer a way of life. What are concrete steps you can take to grow closer to God?

PRAYER ITEM
Dear God, thank You for the hope You have given us through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Because of this sure hope, we can rejoice no matter what comes our way. Grant us faith to focus our eyes on the joy You have set aside for us in eternity, rather than our circumstances here on earth. Create in us a thirst for You, that we may long to abide in You every moment of our lives. In Christ's name we pray. Amen. ■

We value your feedback.

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Thank you!

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